


REMARKS

A principal purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to facilitate examination and avoid fees for multiply dependent claims, Applicants reserving the right to reintroduce claims to cancelled combined subject matter. New claims 16-19 substantively correspond to claims 3-5; 20-24 to 6-8 and 25-28 to 12-15.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,


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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Essentially amorphous functionalized materials comprise an essentially monomolecular layer of organic phosphorous-containing groups bonded to a mineral oxide of an element M via an oxygen atom of said oxide to a phosphorous atom that is itself preferably bonded to a hydrocarbon chain substituted at a distance from the phosphorous atom by a sulphur-containing group or by a reactive group that can be transformed into a sulphur-containing group, said materials being essentially free of phosphate, phosphonate and phosphinate phases of said element M and the sulphate of said element M when the materials comprise a sulphur-containing group. A process for preparing functionalized materials brings a suspension in a liquid of at least one mineral oxide of at least one element M into contact with a solution in a solvent of at least one phosphorous-containing compound usually comprising, at a distance from the phosphorous atom, a sulphur-containing group connected to said phosphorous atom via a hydrocarbon chain.

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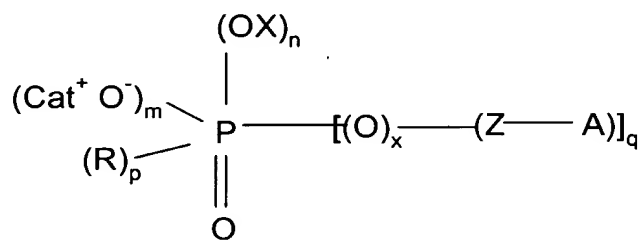
IN THE ABSTRACT

The abstract has been replaced with the attached Abstract of the Disclosure, therefore no marked-up version is necessary.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (Amended) A process for preparing a functionalized material according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, in which~~ claim 1, comprising contacting a suspension in a liquid of at least one mineral oxide of an element M ~~is brought into contact~~ with at least one solution in a solvent of at least one phosphorous-containing compound with formula I:



in which the sum $m+n+p+q$ is equal to 3, $m=0, 1$ or 2 , $q=0, 1$ or 2 , $x=0$ or 1 , $p=0, 1$ or 2 , R is a hydrocarbon group, X is a hydrogen atom, a hydrocarbon group or a group with formula SiR'' , in which R'' is a hydrocarbon group, Z is a hydrocarbon group optionally containing heteroatoms, Cat^+ is a monovalent cation and A is a sulphur-containing group or a reactive group that can be transformed into a sulphur-containing group, said contact being made under conditions of pressure, temperature and acidity of the medium such that practically no phosphate, phosphonate, phosphinate or sulphate phase of said element M is formed.

Claims 3-9 and 12-15 have been cancelled.